

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 1, Folder 11

Sept. 25, 1942 -
Dec. 14, 1942

Frame: 0336

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

September 25, 1942

Riso and Fischer,
12-14 East 46th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

The new uniform which you are tailoring for me has been returned this date by parcel post.

The War College tailor, Mr. Lalli, has measured it up and has remarked that as a whole it is an excellent fit. However, I felt that it was a little too tight and as a result of this Mr. Lalli makes the following recommendations:

1. Let out coat as basted in waist line.
2. Pad point of shoulder a little more (very little).
3. Take in shoulder where chalk mark is.
4. Shorten trousers as basted.

I am a little worried about the material of this suit. Most certainly it is not the material of which my present suit is made, although it was my understanding that it would be the same material. Winter is coming along and it seems a little foolish to buy a suit which is of summer weight.

I am worried also as to the ability of the material to stand up without getting shiny. That is one fault of American cloth and this seems to me to be American cloth rather than British which I ordered.

As you know, you chose the material yourself without any reference to me and merely requested that I give you a free hand. I have done so but whether I am happy about it or not, I cannot as yet state.

Very truly yours,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

0338

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

September 28, 1942

My dear Mr. Vaughn:

It was very nice of you to write me a letter a few days ago relative to your visit here and your sudden departure. Needless to say all of us missed you not only because of your own personal charm, but also because of the great fund of knowledge which you have stored up through the years, and which you so generously gave not only to me, but also to my friends. They always speak of you today with friendly appreciation.

I have been terribly upset about your wife's illness and I trust that now she is out of any immediate danger. The precipitousness with which you left Newport indicated to me and to all of us, not only the severity of her illness, but also the deep affection you bear for her. I think that is a great tribute to a happy marriage.

Thank you very much for your invitation to look you up when I come to New York. I realize that you are naturally very busy but if I do get down there, I will at least call you and say hello to a very fine fellow.

It was nice to know you and it is even nicer to know that you remember us up here and that you evidently found your visit profitable.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Mr. Miles W. Vaughn,
United Press Association,
News Building, 220 E. 42nd St.,
New York, N.Y.

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United Press Associations

INCORPORATED IN NEW YORK

GENERAL OFFICES

NEWS BUILDING NEW YORK CITY

L. B. MICKEL

SUPERINTENDENT OF BUREAUS

September 19, 1942.

Dear Captain Bates:

You no doubt have heard the reason for my sudden and unceremonious departure from Newport.

I do hope you will ask all the officers to forgive what must have appeared an example of very bad manners.

I'll appreciate it greatly if you'll let me know the next time you're going to be down New York way with a little time on your hands so that we can get together for a dinner and a visit. It was most meeting you and I do hope the friendship we formed will not be allowed to lapse.

Cordially,

Miles W. Vaughn

Miles W. Vaughn

Captain Richard W. Bates,
Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island.

MWV:KK

0340

Frank, 29 September 1942

Comments on Admiral Kalbfus

Dear Bishop, 2 October 1942

(Captain Workman)

Hymn 415 and F.D.R.

Chappie, Captain Workman, 24 November 1942

Hymn 415

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

September 29, 1942

Dear Frank:

That was a very nice letter you wrote me recently relative to your visit here and I was very glad to hear from you. However, I cannot agree with you that I feel that I am living in a vacuum since the departure of your class, because to be quite honest, this place is really quite busy and your presence here merely increased the tempo and the color.

It was a fine thing for us that you were along with that party and were able through your knowledge of people and good common sense to advise us, and particularly me, as to the situation from day to day.

None of us really knew what you all would be like although all of us were acquainted indirectly with everyone of you and with your successful accomplishments in positions of trust all over the world. I can assure you from my viewpoint and from the viewpoint of the College, as I have no doubt Admiral Kalbfus has long since expressed, that the "receiving" was not only on your end alone, but was on our end as well.

All of us profited greatly from the association and I personally think that it was a very helpful thing, not only for the press and radio, but also for the War College and the Navy that such a visit was made. Your comments concerning Admiral Kalbfus are thoroughly concurred in. He is an outstanding officer of many brilliant accomplishments in the field of his life study and the War College will probably bear a bigger trace of his efforts than even of those of Mahan. It appears that he will be detached about November 1.

I hope that you will remember me most kindly to John Thomason and Frank Beatty, both of whom I count as close friends, and as for yourself, I hope that it

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won't be long before I can renew an acquaintance, which although short, was so fruitful in knowledge and comradeship.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Mr. Frank E. Mason,
Office of the Secretary of the Navy,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

0343

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 1, 1942

Dear Nat:

In looking over the list of officers attached to the Office of Naval Intelligence, I noted with great interest that your trusty hand was once again at the steering wheel, by this, that you are in the Administrative Section. It strikes me therefore that you are just the fellow that I wish to write to.

Two of the officers attached to the Preparatory Staff Class here at the College, have come to see me about their future assignment. One of these is -

(a) Lieutenant Paul Abbott, I-V(S). Abbott is now 44 years of age and has been in the Naval Reserve for two years. He graduated from Andover and then went to Yale, where he remained one year and then went overseas, where he served as an officer in the French Field Artillery. He is married. Abbott desires to go to sea duty as a first choice. He has had a great deal of experience with small boats, such as a PC. He is reportedly slightly colored blind but has no difficulty in deviating, for example, between running lights. He has a waiver on this. As a second choice, he would like service overseas, preferably in England. He has done a great deal of business in Europe and to quote himself "knows the English well enough to like them, and also well enough not to be over-impressed by them." Naturally he knows the French, as he served in their army and has some capability with their language. He was on the Italian front in the last war for six months. He does not desire to go to South America particularly.

The other officer is -

(b) Lieutenant Commander A.J. Hammond, I-V(S), who has been in the Naval Reserve for six years. He is 36 years of age. He is married. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1926, and from Pennsylvania in 1931 with a degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts. He also desires sea duty as a first choice, but failing in that, he desires duty overseas with a preference of (1) England, and (2) South America.

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Both of the above officers are fine men and I think will do very well indeed wherever placed. They are both fine appearing and in my mind are well above the average of the Reserve Officers that I have known. Their work here at the College has been well done and they have shown a deep interest in naval matters. Socially they would grace any society.

There is one thing that they have endeavored to impress me with. It is this - they do not desire to return to the duty they left. For example, Abbott is frightened to death for fear that they will return him to duty in New York City. He emphatically does not desire this duty, and wants, as I said, to go to sea or to go to foreign duty. I hope that we can use him as he desires. Hammond likewise is most specific and he hopes that you will see fit not to send him back to Philadelphia or to Fort Mifflin, but will arrange somehow to use him at sea or outside of the United States.

I may be down in Washington the first part of the week - note I said I may be - as it is dependent upon the Admiral, and if I do, I will drop in to see you.

Best regards, as always, your old friend and classmate,

Captain Nathaniel M. Pigman, U.S.N.,
Office of Naval Intelligence,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

0345

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 2, 1942

Dear Bishop:

I was very gratified to receive your friendly comments relative to my hymn. Evidently the hymn is really better than I had hoped, because I get friendly comments from everyone. In fact, a lieutenant commander aviator told me after hearing it sung last Sunday that it pulled tears out of his eyes. It is, therefore, emotionally successful, and after all, that is one of the basic ideas in the thoughts contained within the hymn. The war cannot be won by material alone. There must be a spiritual uplift - a spiritual get together in the hearts and souls of our people.

I should like very much to have you send this hymn out to all of the Chaplains, both Army and Navy. The only thing about it is this. It is true that I am getting a copyright, but I am getting this not to make any money, but solely to protect the hymn so that no one will be able to change it. I understand from Doctor Scaife of Trinity, that the old hymn was not copyrighted - that is, neither words nor music, and therefore there is absolutely no reason that I can see, why the hymn should not be spread broadcast. As a matter of fact, I understand that it has already been sent to Great Britain, as well as to some other countries.

I sent a copy of this hymn to John McCrea, Aide to the President, and asked John if he would not show it to the President. I have not heard anything from him, but from the newspapers, I now see why. Naturally, the President was out of town and I presume John was with him. I wanted the President to see it if possible for several reasons. One is, the President is Senior Warden, I understand, of Hyde Park church. Another reason is that he is the greatest psychologist in the world, and I feel that this hymn might appeal to him very much indeed, for that reason.

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- 2 -

I hope that this letter finds you in the best of health and the charming fellow that you always have been.

Best regards, your old shipmate,

Captain Robert D. Workman, Chaplain Corps, U.S.N.,
Bureau of Naval Personnel,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

0347

October 16, 1942

Dear Frank:

In accordance with your request, I am sending you my conception of a song which you may feel able to use. I can readily write additional verses, but it seem to me that this much should be sufficient for your purpose. By that I mean that with this you should be able to determine whether you can use such a song or not. If you can, I will write additional stanzas as necessary. You said when you were here that you would turn this over to some famed musician and, as a matter of fact, you named him, but for the love of Pete I can't remember the name.

My conception of the music for this song should be something to carry the martial tread idea - that is, the movement of soldiers on the march - and therefore the music should probably be something of a chant or, as the sailors would call it, "chanty." However, I suppose that is entirely the prerogative of the musician and I should be loth to interfere with his judgment.

I was awfully sorry to miss you in Washington when I was there last week. I looked for you for some time but as I was only there for a day and a half it wasn't easily possible to establish contact with a man as active as you are.

Please let me know your reaction to this song, and remember if it is wanted that there is no copyright.

With best regards, I am as ever

Your old friend,

R.W. Bates

Lt.Comdr. Frank Courtney, USNR
Office of Public Relations
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0348

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 16, 1942.

Dear Lempke:

I received your letter, informing me that you had not been selected for a temporary rank, with sincere regret. I believe that your thought concerning your failure to obtain this warrant or commission is correct. There evidently was something which blocked it.

However, I went to Washington, the other day, and talked to the Captain who is the head of the Board now working on a new list. He told me that you would probably be made a Warrant Electrician. However, I cannot guarantee it until it has been published. I asked him how it happened that you had not been appointed before, and why you were only given Electrician when subordinates of yours, and men much less capable, had been made Chief Warrants or even commissioned.

The head of the Board said he did not know but that you were a little old to be commissioned at this time. However, he did say that if your work was fine in your new rank of Warrant, you could be readily recommended for Lieutenant (junior grade) or Lieutenant.

There isn't any doubt about it, Lempke, but what you are a tip-top man. But I could not do anything more for you, for the above reasons, than I have done. With your new rank of Warrant and with your actual ability, you should soon find yourself where you feel you belong.

I am sorry that I didn't write to you before about this, but I preferred to wait until I could get to Washington where I might succeed in straightening things out.

Best regards as always, and don't hesitate to call on me if you need me.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates.

Henry W. Lempke, C.E.M., U.S.N.,
U.S.S. BATELEUR,
c/o Postmaster,
Boston, Mass.

0349

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 17, 1942

Captain E.A. Mitchell, U.S.N.
Administrative Command
Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet
Norfolk, Va.

Dear Mitch,

I was quite pleased to receive your telephone call last night and also that both you and English are enjoying your work and are fit.

I am sending you the stuff which you requested via mail and I hope that you find it useful for the purpose. The big blue sheet on characteristics of aircraft is as up to date as our information at present permits, but Captain Douglas says that there are some changes in the offing--probably new planes--and so I suggest that if you have planes other than those on this sheet, you communicate with Aeronautics and correct them.

As one of the publications forwarded to you is confidential I hope that you will expedite your signature in return. The Conduct of Maneuvers is relatively scarce up here and I suggest that you copy out of it what you require and then, if it won't handicap you, return the volume to the College.

Best regards to everyone there that I know, and here's to your continued success. As always,

Yours sincerely

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

0350

RWB:dl

October 21, 1942

Dear Challenger:

It was too bad that I didn't get a chance to get around to say "Good-bye" to you but, as you recollect, I did manage to speak to you for a moment on the phone.

As fate would have it, it appears that you are assigned to a section in Washington where I hope the use of Sound Military Decision will be one of your principal occupations. This being possibly so, it would be a good idea if you and Dutch would get together and advise me as to how you find yourselves equipped, particularly in view of your relatively short course here to perform the functions to which you are now assigned. I have just looked over your Strategical Quick Decision Problem Number 2 and find it first rate.

With best regards to you and congratulations on your new assignment, whatever it may be, I am as ever

Yours sincerely,

Commander H. L. Challenger, U. S. N.
Office of the Commander in Chief
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

0351

RWB:dl

October 21, 1942

Dear Dutch:

This is merely a note to say that I regretted I was unable to get around to say "Good-bye" to you upon your departure for your new assignment, whatever it may be. However, as you may notice from the address, I am sending this letter to the office where I understand you are now at least temporarily located.

In view of the fact that you got away before you could look at your Strategical Quick Decision Problem Number 2, I am telling you that I have just now completed its correction and find it excellent. If the type of work you are accomplishing down there is equivalent in character to your Strat. 2, I feel that we will probably have no more worry about our solutions.

Best regards to yourself and to everyone else.

Yours very sincerely,

Commander K. J. Christoph, U.S.N.
Office of the Commander in Chief
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

0352

RWB:dl

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 23, 1942

Dear Mr. Arnold:

Your letter referred to in my recent telegram is at hand. You certainly have arranged a program for me and I shall be only too happy to cooperate in any possible way. While I am in Harrisburg my time will be your time so that you may feel free to use me---of course, with discretion.

The program you submitted is quite O.K. As regards the Community War Chest Workers' Organization, I had planned to address them as you suggested in your letter to the Admiral and for that reason I have drawn up an address which should take about twenty minutes. This address has been approved by Admiral Kalbfus and, to a degree, by the Navy Department and therefore I will have to generally read it.

I don't know what time you desire that I arrive at Harrisburg or where I should stay, if at all. That is, I can go by night train to Harrisburg, I presume, and arrive there in the morning and be available to you, or I can go up on Monday some time and remain at one of your hotels that night. I should appreciate your reaction as to which of the above courses is preferable.

With very best regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Mr. William A. Arnold, II
Eighth Floor, State Street Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

P.S. I am sending you two photographs of me as a Commander and as such, they are about four years old but I think they still resemble me and my only suggestion is that you block out the Commander stripes.

0353

RWB:dl

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 24, 1942

Dear Captain Binford:

I cannot begin to tell you with what pleasure I received your note relative to Messrs. Phelps and Lempke. My pleasure was not based so much upon the information which you sent me, and which I most certainly appreciate, but upon noting that one of our new heroes was back again in the land. I noted with interest that you had been decorated by Queen Wilhelmina which is no mean success.

I would like to hear some day from you about that Java Sea battle. I can't say that I am particularly impressed with the way it was handled but a few words from you might readily clear up my questions.

I have heard some stories about the Clark---about the long trips she has had at sea---and I guess that she is giving a good account of herself. I note the ship that we both had was par excellence in the fleet and I regret that I was unable to take her to battle.

As regards Robert Morris Phelps, C.G.M., U.S.N.R., I have been told that he would probably be commissioned with a rank of Ensign. He is a fine young fellow and there will be no mistake in commissioning him as such. His brother was recently commissioned as a Lieutenant, A-V(S), and the brother has no qualifications which match up with his. Frankly, I think that if it would be possible you would not err if you made him a Lieutenant, Junior Grade.

As regards Henry Lempke, C.E.M., Fleet Reserve, I understand that he is to be made an Electrician. I feel certain that he will be as gratified with receiving his warrant as an Electrician as Phelps will be to receive his as an Ensign. I wrote a note to the Board about Lempke but I guess my recommendation must have gone astray for Lempke is one of the three finest Chief Electrician Mates that I have ever seen in the Navy.

I don't want you to feel that I am disappointed with what these two men are getting. I know that you have a very difficult situation to handle down there and I know that your judgment in these cases is the result of the best opinion. However, I would rather trust my engineering plant to Lempke than to almost any Chief Petty Officer that I know.

With best regards to you and many, many thanks for your friendly interest in this case, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Captain T. S. Binford, U.S.N.
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington, D. C.

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

0354

RWB:c1

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND **October 26, 1942**

My dear Ludlum:

The other day I was in the Navy Department and saw Captain Ragsdale concerning the possible appointment of a young fellow in Philadelphia named Peter Irvin Clough, as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Navy.

Captain Ragsdale, who happens to be an old friend of mine, discussed my perplexity with me and suggested that I address you directly at the above address which he gave me. I had suggested that Mr. Clough be placed in Aviation, Volunteer Special Service. These are his characteristics.

Name:- Peter Irvin Clough
Born:- July 19, 1916
Age:- 26 years
Weight:- 154 pounds
Height:- 5 ft., 11½ inches
School: Attended the Holderness School, Plymouth, New Hampshire.
Entered:- 1930 - Eighth Grade
Graduated:- 1935
Occupation:- Employed 1936 by the Suntex Chemical Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, manufacturers of Sodium Hypochlorite, a germicide and disinfectant solution.
Nature of Work:- Sales, Personnel, Purchasing, and Management.
Present Position:- Vice-President and General Manager

I am sending a letter to Mr. Clough requesting that he come in to see you and I hope that you will give him a sufficient and sympathetic hearing.

It is true that he has not graduated from any University but it is my understanding that the school which he graduated from is equivalent to St. George's here in Newport and it is my further understanding that graduates of St. George's without further education have been commissioned as Lieutenants in the Navy. One of these was a Mr. Phelps, a friend of mine from here.

It is my understanding that Mr. Clough has done exceptionally well in the operation of his chemical plant. He has built it to its present successful standing almost entirely by his own efforts.

Many thanks for anything you may do. I would appreciate your friendly interest in this case.

Very sincerely yours,

Lieut. T. T. Ludlum, U. S. N.
Naval Aviation Cadet
Selection Board
Widener Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

0355

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 30, 1942

Mr. Lesley McCreath
Liberty Street
Harrisburg, Pa.

My dear Mr. McCreath:

This is a note to thank you very much for the friendly attention which you gave me during my visit to Harrisburg. I know that you gave a great deal of your time to me, probably to the detriment of your business affairs. Therefore, I want you to know how much I appreciated it.

It was nice to go to your house in the afternoon and to see you and Mrs. McCreath in your own home. I always like to see people in their own homes as it gives me a true picture of their quality. Needless to say, in your case I was sufficiently impressed. I regret that I was unable to spend Tuesday night with you and Mrs. McCreath and I hope you will explain to her that I was under orders and I felt that I had to put my own happiness aside towards compliance with them.

I had the good fortune to meet your brother and dine with him and Mr. Arnold prior to my address before the Community Chest. He is a nice fellow and was very kind to dine with me. I hope you will convey my appreciation to him.

I thought the whole affair at Harrisburg was very well handled and it struck me that the public were highly interested. On the train in the morning, a young man came up to me and asked me if I wasn't the fellow who spoke over the radio. I said that I was. He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed my speech and that it had about sold him in coming into the Navy right away. So you can see that it may be possible that the recruiting service has received a dividend already.

With warmest regards to you and Mrs. McCreath and with many thanks again for your hospitality, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Captain U.S.N.

RWB:ARA

0356

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 30, 1942

Captain Ellsworth VanPatten
Naval Supply Depot
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

My dear Captain VanPatten:

This is merely a note to tell you how pleasant it was to renew an acquaintance which we had in Washington when you were the Assistant Chief of S & A and I was the War Plans and Security Officer of the Bureau of Engineering.

I think that you are a great help to the Harrisburg area and I was quite interested to note the deep affection with which everyone there holds you. In fact, both Mr. Arnold and Mr. McCreath made numerous friendly remarks concerning your capabilities and personality and I feel that I owe it to you to tell you because in the end, in the Navy, all that we finally have is the respect and admiration of our friends.

Your speeches were all highly interesting and I heard a lot of people say how much they enjoyed them.

It was awfully nice to meet Mrs. VanPatten and I regret very much that I was unable to sit around and talk to her more about our home city, San Francisco. Please tell her for me that I look forward to the opportunity of talking with her again and enjoying the pleasure of her company. All in all, my stay at Harrisburg, although more or less of a workout, was quite pleasant and I thank you for your share in it. I hope that you understand that the reason that I could not accept your trip to Mechanicsburg and to luncheon afterwards was not due to my lack of interest, but was due solely to the necessity of my returning at once to duty, as I was under orders.

With best regards, I am as ever,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Captain U.S.N.

RWB:ARA

0357

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 30, 1942

Mr. Franklin Moore, Manager
Penn-Harris Hotel
Harrisburg, Pa.

My dear Mr. Moore:

Having been a toastmaster myself, I can always appreciate a good one when I see one and so I am merely writing to you to say, "hello," and to thank you very much for the way in which you handled the Navy Day luncheon at your hotel.

I also want to say that I wasn't joking when I commented upon your success in being elected the president of the Inter-American Hotel System. This is a great tribute to evident outstanding ability and I feel confident that you not only deserved it, but are actually making it a lively thing.

With best regards, I am very truly yours,

R. W. Bates
Captain U.S.N.

RWB:ARA

0358

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 30, 1942

Mr. William A. Arnold, II
State Street Building
Harrisburg, Pa.

My dear Mr. Arnold:

I had just called my secretary in to dictate to you a letter relative to my trip to Harrisburg, when I found a letter from you on my desk. The letter that you have written me is a perfectly splendid one and I am deeply appreciative if my trip was as successful as you indicate.

Naturally my one love is the Navy and anything that I can do toward furthering our Navy along the road to victory I am only too happy and ready to do. I know that that is also the attitude of the Navy League so you can see that in my visit to Harrisburg I was endeavoring to boost not only the Navy but also the Navy League.

I think that the Navy League is extremely fortunate in having you in Harrisburg and I can readily see why they were smart enough to choose you as one of the vice presidents. There is no doubt but that you did a grand job over Navy Day and I think that nothing but good can come out of your devotion.

I personally enjoyed my stay very much there. I was very happy to meet the representative citizens that I met everywhere and I was more than pleased to see that not only they, but all Harrisburg and the surrounding area are thoroughly cognizant of the seriousness of this war and are making heavy contributions not only in a financial way but also in a spiritual and moral way towards victory.

It was nice to meet Mrs. Arnold who is a perfectly delightful person, and I am sorry that opportunity did not present itself more for me to really have a chat with her. I hope that you will tell her that I am sorry.

0359

Mr. William A. Arnold, II -2-

October 30, 1942

I am enclosing the several copies of my hymn which I hope you will enjoy. As I said, I wrote verses two and three and with Dr. Scaife readapted number four.

There is no way in which I can send you a record of my incidental expenses. I do not know what they were and even if I did, I should be reluctant to submit them. The Government paid my transportation charges, and I do not think that I should get any refund for that.

With best regards, I am as ever,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Captain U.S.N.

RWB:ARA

Enc. - 2

0360

BWS:rmh

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

October 31, 1942

Dear Mr. Clough:

I have been to Washington and interviewed Captain Ragsdale of the Bureau of Aeronautics concerning your possible commission as an officer in the Navy. I spoke to Captain Ragsdale because he is evidently in charge of what is called Aviation, Volunteer, Special Service. I was advised to communicate with Lieutenant F. T. Ludlum who is on duty at the Naval Aviation Cadet Selection Board, Widener Building, Philadelphia.

About one week ago, I wrote to Ludlum and gave him an outline of your background and have asked him if he will not see you.

My suggestion to you now is that you communicate with Lieutenant Ludlum and talk over your possibilities of getting into A-V(S). The reason that I consider that A-V(S) would be best for you is this. You are not a university graduate but are a graduate of a first class preparatory school and, in addition, have made yourself through your own efforts the vice president and general manager of a successful chemical company. What the Navy is after in A-V(S) is men who have succeeded in civilian life.

I hope that you have good luck in this quest of yours but if you don't I suggest that you ask Lieutenant Ludlum where someone like you, with your qualifications, might fit in. I wouldn't waste much time now about getting after this commission.

I hope you will remember me most kindly to your mother for whom I have always had a deep affection since the day I was twelve. She can probably tell you about it.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, USN.

Mr. Peter Irvin Clough
Hotel Barclay
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

0361

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND.

November 10, 1942

Dear Old Woody:

I don't blame you for feeling that we had forgotten you here because so far as I know, outside of Admiral Kalbfus, no one has communicated with you. Please don't feel that there is anything personal in it at all. Every one here thoroughly appreciated your ability and personality, and every one feels that you left your own imprint in the College, however, with the large classes here now and with Admiral Kalbfus near detachment, we were all pretty well swamped and still are.

Admiral Kalbfus has now left and has been replaced by Admiral Pye, who seems quite receptive to everything we are doing and who also seems to be an admirer of the "green book". I have only seen him twice since he took command ten days ago, so I presume that he is busy moving into his new house and becoming familiar with the responsibilities of his new command.

Admiral Kalbfus left here with regret. He has been associated with the College so long that I think that he felt that he was losing an old friend in being sent to Washington, where he is now a member of the General Board. After you left, I became quite friendly with the Admiral who was constantly sending for me concerning this or that and I enjoyed the contact. He certainly is a very able and fine man, and the College has been fortunate in having him available these many years. I was awfully pleased to hear that you wrote him several times and he told me about it, although he did not show me the letters.

The College is getting on very well indeed, and Admiral Kalbfus told me that he thought it was in better shape now than it ever had been. Of course, as you know, there is a very large class of reserve officers in the Prep Staff Class, some of whom have never been to sea and others who had never been in a uniform since the last war. They are an especially fine body of men, however, and have taken to this course like a duck to water, and some of them will undoubtedly be heard of later. All have been very friendly to me and have been highly appreciative of the work your old

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**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 11, 1942

Dear Elizabeth:

It was very kind of you to send me your copy of the "Victory Service" which you held at your church recently. I especially appreciated the second one wherein was indicated a comment concerning the hymn. May I ask you if you won't send me probably half a dozen copies of your program for November 8th. I plan to send those to certain places in this country.

It is always nice to see you and your husband when you are up here and I hope that whenever you do come, you will keep me advised. The war news today is very gratifying and I know must be very up-lifting to our people.

Please forgive the dictation but I am in a rush as always. Best regards as always,

Yours sincerely,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Mrs. Rudolph Roell,
c/o The Reverend Rudolph Roell,
Saint James Church,
New York, N.Y.

0364

RWB:nwh

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 24, 1942

Dear Chappie:

I note in this morning's paper that the President is to lead the nation in prayer on Thanksgiving Day. This is exactly along the lines which I have hoped would be adopted by our leaders in war time if not in peace also. When people are in trouble they always turn to the Creator and that is the lesson of Bataan, of Guadalcanal, and my doctor brother says that it most certainly was the lesson of the World War, especially among the men in the trenches.

What I am writing about is to ascertain two things: (1) Has my hymn been adopted officially by both the Army and the Navy as you wrote me it would be? (2) Why not use it from the White House? I am not asking that I be included but in view of the success that this hymn has had, as noted in this pamphlet I received from St. James Church in New York, it would appear to me that this was a propitious time to introduce it. As I wrote you before, it was written entirely by me with the exception of the last verse wherein Dr. Lauriston Sealife of the church here assisted. So many people have told me of the effect of this hymn on them that I feel reluctant to allow an opportunity to pass in presenting it to the public in such a fine way as from the White House service.

Dr. Lauriston Sealife is, as you probably know, an Episcopalian and so is the President - as a matter of fact, I understand that the President is the Senior Warden of the Episcopalian Church at Hyde Park.

The paper says that the service will be conducted by the Reverend Howard S. Wilkinson, Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church where Mr. Roosevelt worships. Could not he be contacted by you rather than by me?

Time is short and I am expediting this by special delivery. I do hope that it is effective.

The thing I wish to impress to you is this: I personally am seeking no type of publicity over this whatsoever. There is no material

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gain for me of any nature. It is solely that I wish to help the war effort and from what I have heard from everywhere I feel that this hymn would be a direct contribution to our people. As a matter of fact, if the hymn is good, and everyone seems to think it is remarkable, possibly I didn't do it at all but maybe there was some guidance from somewhere which produced it.

Best regards, as always,

Your old pal,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Captain R. D. Workman (Ch. C.), U.S.N.
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

0366

RWB:mrh

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 24, 1942

Dear John:

I note that the President is to lead the nation in prayer from the White House on Thanksgiving Day and it struck me that this might be a good time to introduce my hymn if it is satisfactory to the President. The hymn is being sung in a lot of places now as will be indicated by the enclosed program. I am not asking any publicity over this myself. I only desire to help the war effort and from what I have heard of this hymn since it has been published I would judge that it is very successful in molding the psychological fibers of our people, at least among those that have heard it. Admiral Pye told me on Sunday when he heard it that he thought it was splendid.

I wish to say also that I am getting no material gain out of this thing in any way. I am not asking that my name be attached to it. I merely feel that the idea of land, sea and air in prayer should be brought home in full to our people. Whether this is the best medium I do not know but as I know none other and as I know the success of this one, I feel reluctant to permit a moment of such importance to pass by.

Let me congratulate you upon the remarkable manner in which you seem to be conducting your days as Aide to the President. It is a horrible responsibility in days such as these but from the successes of our arms in various places I would judge that you have had a share in the councils of the mighty.

I love the way the President spoke about Dan Callaghan and the Navy rejoiced at his affection.

Best regards, as always,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Captain John McCrea, U.S.N.
Aide to the President
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

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RWB:mwh

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 25, 1942

Dear Admiral:

It is three weeks now since you left the War College, needless to say everyone of us viewed your departure with sincere regret. There is no doubt but that the War College as it exists today, is definitely, to quote President Roosevelt years ago, "your baby" and as such you can most certainly have a profound pride in your accomplishment. The College is running very well indeed and, so far as I have been able to judge, your successor has made absolutely no changes, nor have I heard that he plans any changes. I think that Admiral Pye has probably decided to watch the College function before he decides to change anything that you have done.

None of us have seen very much of him as he seems very busy taking over his new establishment. He attended a presentation which I made the other morning on one of the more famous recent naval battles and afterwards he commended me very highly upon the presentation. It was very gratifying to me to know his attitude because the time allotted was only one hour and a half and there were so many lessons in it that I wished to bring home to the students that my time was scarcely enough, even though I operated at top speed.

I had a very moving experience the other day. When we had finished our Op. III problem and had completed the Critique, I got up on the podium and delivered an address on the question of the lessons learned from the Critique and expressed my sentiment regarding their responsibilities as commanders - all along the line of thought which you have so strongly presented in SOUND MILITARY DECISION. When I had finished my speech, the entire student body burst into applause. As this is never done in the College, I was quite astonished as well as moved. I asked one of the students what it was all about and he said, "Captain, the entire student body has been highly pleased with the manner in which your strategical section has presented the lessons of war and we wanted to express to you spontaneously our tribute." Wasn't that a fine thing? Very frankly, I felt reconciled for a few minutes at having to remain within the sacred walls of this College rather than being on the bridge of my ship.

A great many people around here ask me about you and Mrs. Kalbfus - I think you will find some day when you return that you have a great friends here and I am more than ever convinced that you made the sound

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military decision - probably through the use of SOUND MILITARY DECISION - when you purchased your home here. The College, as you know, breaks up in the early part of next month and everybody is wondering who is going to give the graduation address. I happen to know but I am not saying until it is released.

I trust that you are finding your duty on the General Board all that you hoped it might be. I can't imagine anywhere where four officers of more outstanding reputation and performance of duty can be found than in that small group of Hepburn, Hart, Block, and Kalbfus. Your names are beloved in the Navy and everyone is quite familiar with your accomplishments. I hope that you are enabled to speak to the Secretary as you did heretofore and that the same wise council that you made available to all of us will, through you, be made available to him. God knows they need counsel there in Washington.

Through your kind offices, Commander Cruzen is about to get his orders and I know that he is gratified to you very much in letting him go.

All the officers here now, with the exception of a very few, have received their orders and it would do your heart good to know that the major portion of them have been assigned to staffs. This includes Cruzen. It has been your idea, unless I misjudge you thoroughly, that this was the proper function of the War College - that its graduates should be assigned to staff positions. So once again the clarity of thought which has permeated all of your actions is once again being demonstrated in the action of the Office of Naval Personnel. I hope that you won't feel that I am speaking too richly when I make the comments I have made above but they are definitely true, have always been my belief, and I also believe that it is better to hear in life what people think of us than to be with Homer where "seven cities claimed Homer dead through which the living Homer had begged his bread."

My best regards to you and to Mrs. Kalbfus as well as to the General Board that I know including Hepburn, Hart and Rowoliff.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Admiral E. C. Kalbfus, U.S.N. (Ret.)
General Board
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

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RWB:rmwh

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 25, 1942

Dear Earl:

This letter is for two reasons; the one, to congratulate you upon your elevation to your present high office; the other, to ask you to look out for a friend of mine who will soon be down there.

As regards the first, I think you should know that practically everybody in the whole Navy felt that sooner or later you would be Chief or Assistant Chief of the joint bureaus. You have such an outstanding reputation not only for quality of output but for enormity of output that you could not be denied. I remember about three years ago how your name and apparently my name were considered for Chief of the Bureau of Engineering - now defunct. Neither of us got it, evidently because the President decided to form the joint bureaus. Anyway, I am tickled to death at your assignment and look for even better results now than your Bureau has provided heretofore.

As regards the friend of mine, his name is Robert E. Christy. He is building ships for Uncle Sam in Alameda, California. I think when he comes in to see you that you will immediately recognize him as he has been there before. He is not only a good friend of mine but also of Howard Vickery. Christy's firm is building ocean going tugs, I think, but on this point I am not entirely clear. I am especially interested in his success because I was the one who recommended him first to the Maritime Commission. I know the United Engineering Works well in California - I have known his family well for thirty years - and I think there is no question as to their integrity. The matter he wishes to discuss with you has something to do with his contracts but what it is I do not know nor do I care to know. All I wish to say to you is this. When Mr. Christy comes, please receive him sympathetically and if there is any way in which his difficulties, whatever they may be, can be handled naturally, legally and fairly I hope that you will see fit to guide him into these channels.

My very best regards to any of those in the Bureau with whom I have been associated and as for yourself, once again, my congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

Captain Earl W. Mills, USN
Assistant Chief of the
Bureau of Ships
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Nov. 26, 1942

Manager Davies
University Club
Sixteenth Street at L
Washington, D. C.

Dear Davies:

A great friend of mine, Lieutenant Paul Abbott I-V(S), is coming to duty in Washington for a short time in the Office of Naval Intelligence. He will be by himself and would like very much to stop at the Club. I have told him that a letter from me to you was equivalent to backing our greenbacks with gold, so please don't send me any negative reply.

Our new President of the War College, Admiral Pye, told me the other day that he had had the great good fortune to meet you, and he said it with such evident delight that I am inclined to believe that you really must be somebody.

Lieutenant Abbott plans to arrive there on the evening of Sunday, December 6th.

Best regards to you, as always

R. W. Bates

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

December 3, 1942

Dear Jones:

It was very nice of you to leave a note for me in which you referred to Admiral Giffen and also Dave Stretch. I am awfully glad to hear that both of them asked after me and it was kind of you to leave me word of them. I thought I saw you in the Reading Room on Sunday but I didn't notice you until you had started going out, and I said to someone "For God's sake, isn't that Dan Jones" and they said "Yes, it was." That is the last I saw of you and had you come back in, I would have spoken to you. I do wish that you had introduced yourself to me for I would have readily remembered you.

Evidently you have been under fire and I understand very successfully. It is a great privilege to be under fire and it is a particular privilege to go into battle with a commander like Ike Giffen. You can readily see that I am quite fond of him. Captain Lowe is also a great friend of mine, and I hope that he is o.k. as you did not mention him. If you were under fire, you are particularly lucky, because here I am with thirty years in the Service and I have not been really fired at by anything excepting a toy pistol. However, some day, if the war lasts long enough and if I can get away from the College, I may get a chance to shoot at somebody and get shot at also. Certainly, I hope so.

I was sorry to hear about Mrs. Stretch, but I guess her condition is not alarming. Please convey my warmest regards to Admiral Giffen, to Captain Lowe, and to Stretch, and as for yourself, congratulations on doing a good job and on being a real Man-of-Warman.

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Lieutenant Dan Jones, U.S.N.R.,
U.S.S. WICHITA,
c/o Postmaster,
New York, N.Y.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

December 5, 1942

Dear Bishop:

That was a very nice letter which I received from you and I am highly appreciative of your friendly comments concerning my hymn. I am awfully sorry that I have bothered you about it but I am anxious to win this war, and I have felt very strongly, as I have told you, that the unity of our people through prayer, even though it be through a prayer hymn, would contribute towards victory. In the end, everyone is religious, and even Ingersoll, agnostic though he was, collapsed at the last minute and embraced the faith. The American public, I feel confident, are fully religious, but they are not as yet fully joined in unity of effort. What better means of uniting them could one possibly suggest than that offered by the church.

I am sorry that I did not hear you speak over the radio. I am deeply gratified that you thought as much of the hymn as you did, and I appreciate your friendly reference to myself. I still must stress the fact, however, that had it not been for the kind guidance and assistance of Dr. Lauriston Scaife of Trinity Church, I doubt very much if my hymn would have received the accolades which it now receives. He is a high type of ecclesiastical clergyman and has done a great deal in the short time that he has been here to increase the attendance at Trinity Church. A friendly word about him would not go amiss.

I hope to be in Washington one of these days this month and when I appear, I trust that I shall have the good fortune of seeing you. There is no doubt that you are doing a wonderful job and with the street ruffian, I say "Pleased to have met ya."

Very sincerely,

Captain Robert D. Workman,
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy,
Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

December 8, 1942

Dear Rags:

All of the students have now graduated from the College and have departed from this area to carry out duty assigned. The aviation representatives appreciated very much the orders which you evidently assisted in obtaining, and every one of them was highly gratified at the responsibility you were placing in them. One of them, however, Lieutenant Commander Jennings, who is a bachelor, had hoped for a more active assignment than Seattle seems to indicate at this time - in other words, he had hoped to go to sea.

You sent a very fine body of men up here in the last Class and they made a very favorable impression in this College and in Newport. I hope that they will measure up to what you expect of them, and I feel confident that most, if not all of them, will do so. It is hoped that your new choices will be composed of men of equally high caliber.

Might I ask, in passing, a question which comes to mind as I write this. A young friend of mine, Lieutenant George Ryan is on duty in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. His wife was interested in knowing if he was coming to the War College or not, as he had evidently requested such an assignment some time ago. So far as I have been informed, no orders have yet arrived for him here, but if you are free to release it, I would appreciate any advanced information.

Best regards, as always, your old friend,

Captain Van Hubert Ragsdale, U.S.N.,
Bureau of Aeronautics,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

December 8, 1942

The Board of Directors,
Alumni Federation of Columbia,
Columbia University,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I received your Christmas card with a great deal of satisfaction. Although not a graduate of Columbia in the undergraduate sense, I am a postgraduate, and as such, have naturally a most friendly feeling for my Alma Mater.

It is very nice of you and those at home to be so thoughtful of your comrades who are serving in the armed forces of this nation, and I know that everyone of them will be glad to receive this recognition of your appreciation of what they are doing. I am a professional Naval Officer, and as stated above, even I enjoy this recognition.

With best greetings for the Christmas Season,
I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

December 7, 1942

Dear Bill:

For the last two Classes, I have always made it a point to interrogate the graduates as to their orders in order that I might find out whether they were content with them or not. A year ago, the graduates were all very satisfied with their orders, and the last time the graduates were quite satisfied with their orders with the exception of several submarine officers who would have preferred a submarine tender to an oiler.

I have made the same analysis now that I made previously, and the reaction was, as a whole, very favorable indeed. I suppose, had the reaction been unfavorable, I should have been reluctant to write you this letter because you have enough trouble as it is. Even the Army Officers seemed very pleased with what they are going to. As regards the Command Class, it is possible that both Creighton and Nelson would have preferred to be at sea, but on this point I am not quite clear as they are not sure what they are going to do, therefore, were reluctant to comment much. In their cases, I would say they are not dissatisfied. All other officers seemed on the whole specially gratified that you had taken such interest in their welfare, and this applies in particular to the Preparatory Staff Class. I can only think of one of those who seemed to be disappointed with his orders, and that was Jennings - a bachelor, who was sent to Seattle instead of more probable combat duty.

Thus you see that out of a Class which began with about 94 strong, we have every one, with the exception of possibly three, very well satisfied and very appreciative of the efforts of the Office of Naval Personnel in looking out for them.

May I also extend to you my appreciation, as a member of the Staff, for your most successful efforts. I recently wrote a letter to Admiral Kalbfus in which I told him what your office had done, and I know that he is highly gratified.

Best regards, as ever, your old friend,

Captain William M. Fechteler, U.S.N.,
Bureau of Naval Personnel,
Arlington, Va.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

December 8, 1942

Dear Pappy:

This is merely to forward to you the copy of "The Trinity Tower" which you requested and which contains my hymn.

I hope that you are finding the situation to your liking there in Quantico, and I further hope that you will soon find that the lessons you learned here and the associations you made will be of inestimable value.

I am having the scroll which you gave me done on a form of waxed paper, and I am planning to send it to you to be countersigned when it is finally done.

You have left a great many friends here - you are quite an organizer - and all of us I know will miss you and your pleasant personality during the next term.

Best regards, as always,

R. W. Bates.

Lieut.Colonel Carleton Penn, U.S.M.C.R.,
Marine Barracks,
Quantico, Va.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

December 14, 1942

Dear Admiral:

Mrs. Theodore Grosvenor came to me about two days ago to ask if I had received any word about her husband coming to the War College. I told her that I had not. She then said that it was her understanding that you had indicated to her or to Grosvenor, that he would come up here this next term.

I called Captain Ragsdale by 'phone - Captain Ragsdale is in the Bureau of Aeronautics - and asked him about Grosvenor's case. He said that Grosvenor had not put in a request for the War College and that, therefore, upon his completion of his course at Pensacola - he is taking some sort of machine gun course there - about December 28th, he was to be ordered to Bupers for duty. Mrs. Grosvenor called Grosvenor on the 'phone and he said that it was true that he had not submitted a request, but this was on the advice of your former Aide, Lieutenant Commander Ballou, who indicated to him that the matter was being handled. For your information, Grosvenor does not desire to go to Washington for duty. He wants the War College and nothing else if it is humanly possible to get it.

He has now submitted an official request which should be in the Navy Department by the time you get this letter. I am wondering if, in view of your interest in Commander Grosvenor, you would be willing to call Captain Ragsdale and through him arrange for Grosvenor to come here to the College. I think that you know that Grosvenor has been wanting to come here for months. This is not a new idea with him at all, but is part of a well conceived plan to educate himself professionally. I am sure that Captain Ragsdale has no feeling in the matter because he told me that everyone being sent to the War College was, so far as Aeronautics was concerned, simply a name; that they knew nothing about any candidate excepting his record in the Bureau and his recommendation. Captain Ragsdale further indicated that the list for the War College had been made out for this term but he was not adamant about it. I, personally, can see no reason why, with all of the Officers now in the Navy, one more might not be spared for the College.

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I will write you a letter in a few days telling you what is going on here in Newport and in the College, but I won't mention that in this letter, as I wish to keep this thought separate from the general run of information.

Please remember me most kindly to Mrs. Kalbfus.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Admiral E.C. Kalbfus, U.S.N. (Ret.),
General Board,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

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